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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Forty-fourth session
Vienna, 6-15 June 2001
Item 5 of the provisional agenda**
Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

Expert group on the implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system

Note by the Secretariat

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/122 of 8 December 2000, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, considered through its Working Group of the Whole the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III). The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole as contained in its report (see A/AC.105/761, annex II).

2. The Subcommittee agreed with the Working Group of the Whole that, as part of the phase of assessment and establishment of priorities for each action constituting the nucleus of a strategy contained in the resolution of UNISPACE III entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development"[1] to address global challenges in the future, expert groups might be established to conduct research, analyse and make recommendations on particular actions. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that each expert group would welcome the participation of relevant non-governmental organizations and institutions, depending on the requirements of the particular action item, and that the participation of non-governmental entities would be agreed by the members of the expert group. Concerning the implementation of an integrated, space-based

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global natural disaster management system, the Subcommittee agreed with the Working Group of the Whole that it should establish an expert group, with core members from countries with advanced science and technical capability or high vulnerability to disasters.

3. As agreed by the Working Group of the Whole, in a note verbale dated 2 March 2001, the Office for Outer Space Affairs invited Member States to provide the Office with their nominees for the expert group. The annex to the present document contains a list of experts who have been nominated as at 15 May 2001. The Office has circulated the list to the members of the expert group in order to facilitate communication among them as necessary. A list of experts nominated after 15 May 2001 will be circulated in an addendum to the present document.

4. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the chairman of the expert group would be elected by the members and that the election would be subject to approval by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It is anticipated that by the forty-fourth session of the Committee the members of the expert group will have agreed on the chairmanship for approval by the Committee at that session.

5. Concerning the programme of work, the Working Group of the Whole agreed that the expert group should conduct related studies and propose a practical plan for a global disaster mitigation management system or systems and that it should submit the first report to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for general discussion at its thirty-ninth session, in 2002. The report should focus on the following two areas, in compliance with the three-year work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 41), avoiding duplication of existing activities:

(a) How to fully utilize existing space and ground resources, including those of the United Nations system, such as the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and others, such as the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters, for disaster mitigation and early warning;

(b) How to maintain a sustainable and stable development of existing disaster mitigation systems.

6. As regards the report to be prepared by the expert group for submission to the Subcommittee at its fortieth session, in 2003, the Working Group of the Whole agreed that it should focus on the following two areas, in compliance with the three-year work plan:

(a) Proposals for the future, including any potential operational management system or systems;

(b) Determination of the need to establish a new global disaster mitigation system.

Notes

[1] *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19-30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

Annex

List of experts nominated by Member States to the expert group on the implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system

Country	*Name*	*Function/organization*
Argentina	Martin España	National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE)
Canada	Ahmed Mahmood	Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Data Manager, Canadian Space Agency
	Allan Leslie Whitney	Director, Technology Assessment Division, Canada Centre for Remote Sensing
China	Li Chuanrong	Deputy Director-General, China Remote Sensing Satellite Ground Station, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Colombia	Eduardo José González Angulo	Director-General, Directorate General for Disaster Prevention and Relief, Ministry of the Interior
Czech Republic	Martin Setvák	Satellite Department, Czech Hydrometeorological Institute
	Jan Kolar	Chairman, Council for Cooperation with the European Space Agency
France	Jacques Breton	National Centre for Space Studies (CNES), Toulouse Space Centre
Germany	Wolfgang Schneider	German Aerospace Center (DLR)
India	K. V. Venkatachary	Director, Disaster Management System, Indian Space Research Organization
Indonesia	Agus Hidayat	Head, Environment Division, Remote Sensing Applications Centre, National Institute of Aeronautics and Space
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Ahmad Talebzadeh	Member of the Board and Deputy, Applied Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems, Iranian Remote Sensing Centre
Italy	Francesco Nirchio	Earth Observation Division, Italian Space Agency
Mexico	Rigoberto Ortiz Treviño	Technical Director, Directorate-General for Civil Defence, Secretariat for the Interior
Morocco	Hammad Benchekroun	Chief of Division for Data Management, Royal Centre for Remote Sensing (CRTS)
Nigeria	Kayode Fagbemi	National Emergency Management Agency, the Presidency

Country	*Name*	*Function/organization*
Peru	Cirila Vivanco	Advisor to High-level Management, National Civil Defence Institute (INDECI)
Philippines	Raymundo Punongbayan	Director, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
	Leoncio Amadore	Director, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration
Portugal	Mário Caetano	National Centre for Geographical Information, Ministry of Science and Technology
Russian Federation	Leonid A. Makridenko	Head, Department of Space-Based Means of Remote Earth Sensing, Russian Aviation and Space Agency
Senegal	Souléye Wade	Geologist and Mining Engineer, Institute for Earth Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar
	Amadou Tahirou Diaw	Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar
Thailand	Suvit Vibulsresth	Director, Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency
	Dusadee Sukawat	Senior Meteorologist, Meteorological Department
Turkey	Cemal Saydam	Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey
	Ahmet Şirzai	First Lieutenant, Turkish Air Force
United States of America	Levin Lauritson	National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, Office of Satellite Data Processing and Distribution, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
	Louisa R. Beck	Ames Research Center, Earth Science Division, Ecosystem Science and Technology Branch, National Aeronautics and Space Administration